

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 111330Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9541
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 7288

EXDIS

DEPT: PASS SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, EG, YE

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NORTH YEMEN

REF : (A) CAIRO 9963 (NOTAL); (B) JIDDA 6719 (NOTAL)
(C) SANAA 2272 (NOTAL)

1. SOME OF MARWAN'S REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE YEMEN STRIKE US AS AT VARIANCE WITH THE SITUATION AS WE UNDERSTAND IT. (IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT YAR HAD DECIDED AGAINST EGYPTIAN ADVISERS IN EARLY NOVEMBER.) WE LOOK FORWARD TO EMBASSY SANAA'S COMMENTS. AS FOR A SAUDI FINANCED NINETY-MAN EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION, MARWAN WOULD DO BETTER TO LOOK TO RIYADH THAN SANAA FOR THE REASONS THIS PROJECT FELL THROUGH. FRANKLY, WE DOUBT IT WAS EVER ON.

2. THE AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE YEMEN WITH MIN DEF PRINCE SULTAN QUITE A FEW TIMES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND IT WAS ALSO DISCUSSED DURING THE JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION MEETINGS IN NOVEMBERM (WITHIN THE SAG PRINCE SULTAN HANDLES YEMEN
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AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE MILITARY IS CONCERNED).

PERHAPS AS AN IRRATIONAL HANGOVER FROM THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD, THE SAUDIS JUST DON'T TRUST THE EGYPTIANS IN THE YEMEN. SULTAN HAS SAID THAT HE IS RESINGED TO THE PRESENCE OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISORS THERE TO ASSIST THE YEMENIS IN THE HANDLING OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT. BUT HE SEES THE EGYPTIAN ADVISORS THINNING OUT AS SOVIET EQUIPMENT IS CONCENTRATED IN A FEW UNITS, AND EVENTUALLY REPLACED BY WESTERN EQUIPMENT.

3. FINANCING OF ADVISERS IS ALSO A SENSITIVE SUBJECT WITH SULTAN. THROUGH NOT OBJECTING TO THEIR PRESENCE, HE HAS THUS FAR REFUSED TO PAY THE SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF JORDANIAN ADVISERS SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE MORALLY DEMEANING FOR THE SOLDIERS TO BE PAID BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT JUST AS IT IS MORALLY DEMEANING FOR SAUD ARABIA TO BE TREATED AS A MILCH COW. WE THINK THE SAME ATTITUDE WOULD APPLY TO EGYPTIANS' EXPECTATION SAG WOULD FOOT COSTS OF THEIR MILITARY TRAINING TEAM. EVEN IF YAR IS WILLING TO ACCEPT AN EGYPTIAN ADVISORY EFFORT, SAG, AS SOURCE OF MOST FUNDS FOR EXPECTED YAR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WILL EXPECT TO BE IN OVERALL CHARGE OF THE FOREIGN ADVISORY EFFORT. WE THINK IT WILL STILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE SAG HAS DEVISED THE TRAINING AND ADVISORY STRUCTURE INTO WHICH COMPLEMENTARY ADVISORY EFFORTS, INCLUDING ANY EGYPTIAN EFFORT, WOULD BE OBLIGED TO FIT.

4. RECEIPT OF USG VIEWS FOLLOWING OCTOBER-NOVEMBER SURVEY OF YAR ARMED FORCES SHOULD ALLOW US TO RESUME DIALOG WITH SAG ON THIS SUBJECT AND WILL ENCOURAGE SAG TO FOCUS ON WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN NEXT.
AKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA07288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740359-0870
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741244/aaaablsb.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 74 CAIRO 9963, 74 (NOTA JIDDA 6719
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <14-Aug-2002 by martinml, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NORTH YEMEN
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, EG, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005